

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01038 311511Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCA-01 CPR-02

L-03 M-03 RSR-01 DODE-00 PM-07 /126 W

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R 311415Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5515

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1038

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MA

SUBJ: TRAVEL BY DIPLOMATS IN MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE 992(NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL DIPLOMATIC MISSION CHIEFS HAVE NOW BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION OR ASKED DEFER TRAVEL WITHIN MADAGASCAR. DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS APPROACHING MALAGASY GOVT FOR "CLARIFICATION". WE THINK QUIET HANDLING AND PASSAGE OF TIME BEST CALCULATED TO YIELD FAVORABLE RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH ITALIAN AND INDIAN AMBS HAVE NOW RECEIVED TURNDOWNS ON PROPOSED PROVINCIAL TRAVEL IN MADAGASCAR. ITALIAN AMB WAS PROPOSING TAKE FAMILY TO ILE ST-MARIE ON VACATION AND RECEIVED TURNDOWN BY TELEPHONE CALL FROM MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL OFFICIAL TWO DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE. REASON GIV-
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PAGE 02 TANANA 01038 311511Z

EN FOR REFUSAL WAS "SECURITY". INDIAN AMB, WHO PROPOSING TRIP TO

MAJUNGA, RECEIVED WRITTEN REPLY USING SAME FORMULA CONTAINED IN WRITTEN REPLY TO MY REQUEST (SEE REFTEL) -- DEFERRAL TO LATER DATE, HOPEFULLY NOT TOO LONG FROM NOW.

2. AT REQUEST ITALIAN AMB, PAPAL PRO-NONCE (NEW DEAN DIP CORPS, REPLACING FRENCH AMB FOLLOWING REVISION FRANCO-MALAGASY COOPERATION ACCORDS) CONVOKED MEETING OF ALL DIP MISSION CHIEFS JUL 30. ITALIAN AMB, BREATHING FIRE, WANTED INVOKE VIENNA CONVENTION AND THREATEN REPRISALS AGAINST TRAVEL OF MALAGASY DIPS ACCREDITED ABROAD. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HOWEVER, VIEWS OF MISSION CHIEFS PROVED QUITE DIVERSE.

3. I DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM DISCLOSING AT MEETING THAT OUR EMBASSY HAD ALSO RECEIVED MALAGASY REQUEST TO DEFER PLANNED TRAVEL BECAUSE I THINK QUIET HANDLING WITH MALAGASY AND PASSAGE OF TIME MUCH MORE LIKELY THAN RAISING BIG FUSS TO YIELD FAVORABLE RESULTS. FOR REASONS PARTICULAR TO EACH INSTANCE, I HAD PREVIOUSLY CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED ITALIAN AND ISRAELI AMBS ABOUT REPLY I HAD RECEIVED, AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY SIMILARLY INFORMED PRO-NONCE.

4. DECISION AT MISSION CHIEFS MEETING WAS THAT DEAN WOULD "UNOFFICIALLY" APPROACH MOFA (PROBABLY AT SECGEN LEVEL) ON BEHALF CERTAIN EMBASSIES TO ASK FOR "CLARIFICATION" OF CIRCULAR NOTE OF 13JUL REQUESTING DIP MISSION CHIEFS AND CONSULS RESIDENT IN PROVINCES TO GIVE 15 DAYS' NOTICE TO GOVT ON PROPOSED PROVINCIAL TRAVEL. I READILY AGREED TO THIS KIND OF APPROACH. IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION, DEAN TOLD ME HE OPPOSED TO ANY STRONG COLLECTIVE APPROACH AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH VIEW THAT QUIET HANDLING AND PASSAGE OF TIME PREFERABLE.

5. INTERESTINGLY, FRENCH AMB WAS REPRESENTED AT MISSION CHIEFS MEETING BY DCM ON WHAT WAS APPARENTLY PRETEXT THAT HE WAS EXPECTING APPOINTMENT WITH HEAD OF GOVT GEN RAMANANTSOA. FRENCH DCM SPOKE ONLY "PERSONALLY" RATHER THAN AS OFFICIAL REP OF HIS EMBASSY, AND OF COURSE GAVE NO INDICATION HIS AMB WAS FIRST TO BE TURNED DOWN ON TRAVEL REQUEST.MENDENHALL

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